

# Soil Survey Program



**NRCS Oklahoma Soil Data Quality Specialist Charles Cail, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Soil Scientist Acacia Bender, NRCS Texas Soil Data Quality Specialist Ed Griffin, NRCS Oklahoma Soil Scientist Carl Woods, and NRCS Student Trainee Tyson Morley, describing soils for lab characterization.**

photo: NRCS Oklahoma

## Soil Survey Program

Soil surveys provide a field-based scientific inventory of soil resources, including soil maps, data about the physical and chemical properties of soils, and information on the potentials and limitations of each soil. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the lead Federal agency responsible for the soil mapping of private lands. Other state and local agency partners also contribute both staff and money to the mapping effort. Soil surveys have many uses, but are intended for people to determine the best uses of the land based on soil type. Soils data can be used to determine highly erodible areas, potential wetlands, sites where livestock manure could be distributed with little environmental impact, prime farmland, or other soil interpretations critical to natural resource management. Soils data is also useful to urban planners and other government agencies.

The first soil surveys were conducted a century ago. Just as time has progressed, so has soil mapping technology. The digitizing of soil maps and the development of the soil survey geographic database are an integral part of the soil survey process today. They are completed concurrently with other activities in both initial and maintenance soil survey projects. A soil



## Oklahoma State Soil Port Silt Loam



survey geographic database is one of the products of a completed soil survey. The soil survey geographic database is maintained in the field office and archived at the National Cartography and Geospatial Center.

The soil survey geographic database consists of:

- ☒ Spatial data, such as the digital soil survey map
- ☒ Attribute data, such as the soil survey area map unit record. Data from the national soil information system (NASIS)
- ☒ Associated source information (metadata)

### Oklahoma Update

Oklahoma currently has digital soil survey data (SSURGO) available for 12 counties. The digitizing process is ongoing on an additional 34 counties. Oklahoma hopes to have all 77 county soil surveys available in electronic format by 2007.

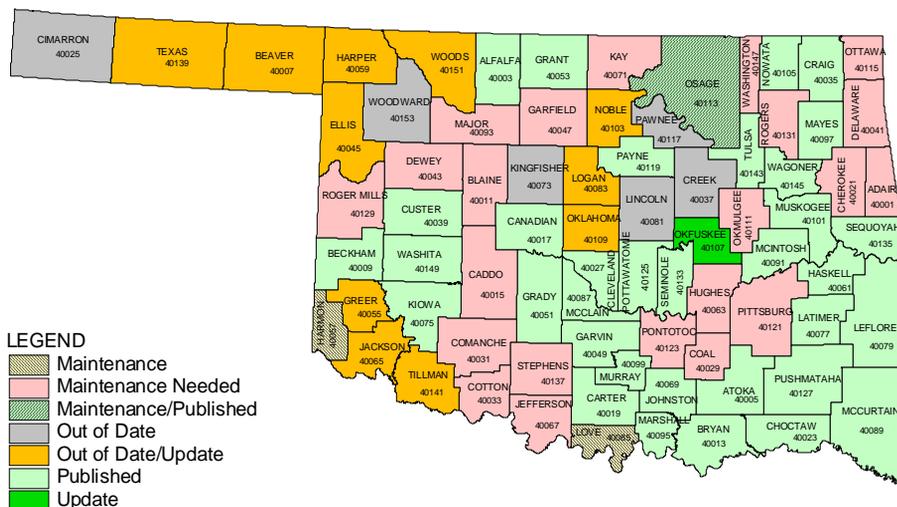
New update soil surveys have been completed on

Woods, Noble, Logan, Oklahoma, Harper, Okfuskee and Jackson Counties. These surveys are at various stages in the publication process. An interim soil survey formatted to CD-ROM format has been developed for Oklahoma County, Logan County and Okfuskee County, and the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant area. A soil survey report in CD-ROM format is currently under development for Woods County.

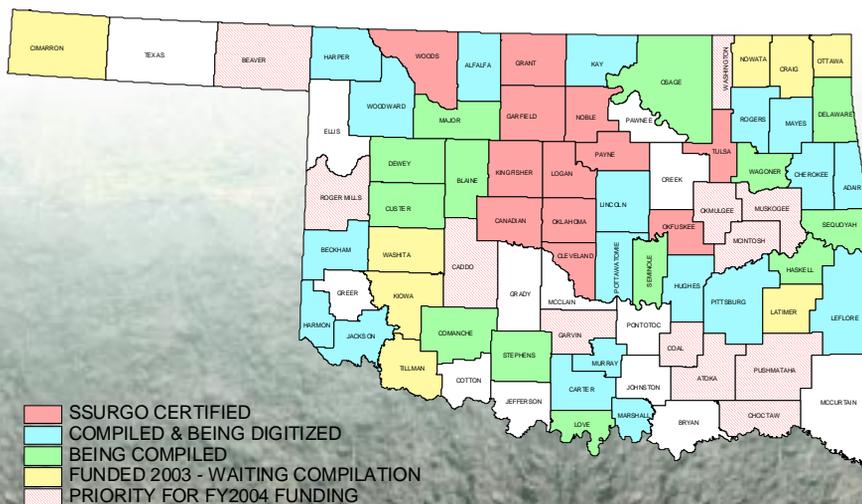
### For More Information

For more information on this program or other USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or USDA Service Center, or check out our website: [www.ok.usda.gov](http://www.ok.usda.gov).

### OKLAHOMA SOIL SURVEY STATUS AND AREA - 2003



### OKLAHOMA SOIL SURVEY DIGITIZING AND CERTIFICATION STATUS



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